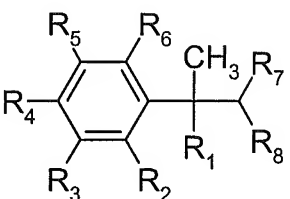


In the claims:

1. (currently amended) A liquid composition comprising

a) from 0.1 to 20% by weight of a dye having a solid state absorption band maximum in the spectral region from 300 to 800 nm,

b) from 0.5 to 79.9% by weight of a compound of formula  (I), wherein R₁

to R₈ are H, CH₃ or C₂H₅, with the proviso that the total number of carbon atoms in R₁ to R₈ is 1 or 2,

c) from 20% to 99.4% by weight of a linear, branched and/or cyclic non-aromatic hydrocarbon wherein the weight ratio of hydrocarbon to compound of formula (I) is from ~~4:1 to 99:1~~ 17:1 to 76:1, and

d) optionally from 0 to 99.4% by weight of one or more further components, all based on the weight of the solution.

2-3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) A composition of claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (I) is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of o-cymene, m-cymene, ~~p-cymene~~, sec-butylbenzene, tert-butylbenzene, 2-pentylbenzene, isopent-2-ylbenzene and tert-amylbenzene.

5. (previously presented) A composition of claim 1, wherein the dye is a phthalocyanine.

6. (currently amended) A composition of claim 1, wherein the hydrocarbon is alicyclic, ~~and the weight ratio of hydrocarbon to compound of formula (I) is from 17:1 to 76:1.~~

7. (previously presented) A composition of claim 6, wherein the hydrocarbon is selected from cycloalkanes substituted by one or more C₁-C₄alkyl groups and/or having a boiling point of ≤ 170 °C.

8. (amended and withdrawn) A process for manufacturing an optical recording medium comprising a substrate with a grooved side, wherein the substrate is a polycarbonate or poly-methyl methacrylate substrate, a recording layer overlying the substrate on the grooved side, a reflective layer overlying the recording layer, and a protective layer overlying the reflective layer, which process comprises coating the grooved side of the substrate with the liquid composition of claim 5 **[[1]]** to produce the recording layer.

9-11. (cancelled)

12. (previously presented) A composition of claim 4, wherein the compound of formula (I) is sec-butylbenzene, tert-butylbenzene or a mixture thereof.

13. (previously presented) A composition of claim 1, wherein the dye is a copper or palladium phthalocyanine.

14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) A composition of claim 6, wherein the hydrocarbon is methylcyclohexane, 1,2-dimethyl cyclohexane, ethyl cyclohexane or a mixture thereof.

16-20. (cancelled)